



# Weekly Safety Meeting

*Your Safety Is Our Business®*

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## Confined Space Entry – Don't Be a Dead Hero

You are standing at the top of an open manhole, acting as attendant for a team of maintenance personnel who have entered a permit-required confined space. It has been several minutes since you talked to the crew, but you can peer down into the space and see them. During your last few checks with them, everything was A-OK.

This time, however, when you call down to check on them, you get no response. You look inside the hole and notice they are slumped over or leaning against the wall. You call again, but they don't move or react.

Alarmed, you yell loudly for help, knowing it will be many minutes before a rescue team arrives. Those are your friends down there and they need to get out of the hole! They are so close to the top, you almost could reach down and pull them up. Your pulse is beating and you breathe hard from excitement. You try again to arouse them. Something has to be done—so you jump down into the hole to get them out.

The rescue team arrives in time to pull your lifeless body out with the rest. The record will show that you attempted to rescue your friends and gave your life in doing so. Some would say you were a hero. Maybe so, but you are a dead hero!

The moral of this scenario is that when you are an attendant watching over a confined space, your duty is to observe and assist from outside. If you have a tag line on the person inside and can pull them out without entry, go ahead (but how much dead weight can you lift from below your feet?). If you have the proper rescue tripod, you can winch the victim to the surface. But at no time should you enter the space to attempt rescue. You can wait until a new attendant arrives, put on the proper rescue equipment and then enter (providing, of course, that you have been trained in rescue procedures). But you must never, never, never abandon your duties as the attendant and attempt rescue on your own. You have no idea what the hazards are that overcame your co-workers. And like the scenario described above, you could wind up as a dead hero!

Over half the workers who die in confined spaces are attempting to rescue other workers. Attendants should not enter a confined space until help arrives, and then only if trained and with proper protective equipment, lifelines, and respirators.

### Confined spaces can be killers, know the risks and take appropriate measures to control them:

- Be sure that air samples are taken before entry and as frequently as the activities being conducted require.
- Use your entry permit to log the sample results and the time of each test.
- Provide ventilation into the space if required.
- Use all personal protective equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
- Have a rescue plan established before it is needed – with communications in place for emergency assistance.

**THINK before you act - stay ALIVE!**



## Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Supervisor:	Subject:
Location:	Date:
Conducted By:	Trainer Signature:

Name (print clearly)

Signature

Comments / Safety Concerns / Training Requests

Name (print clearly)	Signature	Comments / Safety Concerns / Training Requests